



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director of Planning

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**CONFIRMATION OF HEARING EXAMINER WITHIN
THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommendation to confirm the appointment of one Hearing Examiner within the Department of Regional Planning. Hearing Examiners are employees of the Department who are appointed by the Director of Planning and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. Their duties are to conduct public hearings, receive public testimony and make recommendations to the Regional Planning Commission (Commission) on land divisions, land use permits and variances.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Confirm the appointment of Paul McCarthy as Hearing Examiner within the Department of Regional Planning to conduct public hearings and make recommendations on land divisions, land use permits and variances.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On August 12, 2008, the Board of Supervisors passed ordinances establishing a Hearing Examiner within the Department of Regional Planning (Department). The Hearing Examiner procedure increases opportunities for public participation earlier in the planning process and enables the Commission to make decisions in a more timely and efficient manner.

Section 22.08.080 of the County Code (Zoning Ordinance) requires that all appointments as Hearing Examiner be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. McCarthy has over forty years of experience with the Department and has functioned in various capacities making him one of the most experienced and well-rounded planners in the Department. Mr. McCarthy currently serves as one of the Department's Hearing Officers and is highly qualified to serve as a Hearing Examiner.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendations are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by increasing effectiveness of County processes and operations and delivering customer oriented services to unincorporated communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The appointment of the Hearing Examiner does not require additional funding; therefore, there is no impact on net County costs.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

County Code (Zoning Ordinance) Section 22.08.080 permits the Director of Planning to appoint Hearing Examiners, subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors, to perform the duties prescribed by Title 22 in conducting public hearings and making determinations on land use permits and variances.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Your approval of this recommendation will enable the Department to devote and maintain an appropriate number of Hearing Examiners to enhance the quality of services provided to the public.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one adopted, stamped Board letter to the Department of Regional Planning.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard J. Bruckner". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

RICHARD J. BRUCKNER
Director

RJB:SA:lm

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors